



# *Historic Site Tour*

*October 3, 1976*



*Branch County  
Historical Society  
Coldwater, Michigan*

- [1]Wing House Museum  
 [2]Coldwater Public Library  
 [3]Mr. and Mrs. Hal Cozzens  
 [4]Mrs. Ralph McGowen  
 [5]Mrs. George M. Branch and  
 Miss Nancy Branch  
 [6]Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Woodward  
 and Mayor Charles Woodward  
 [7]Mr. and Mrs. William Rodgers  
 [8]Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bristol

2 miles west of Mac's Airport Inn on US-12  
 or 4.3 miles from Chamber of Commerce on

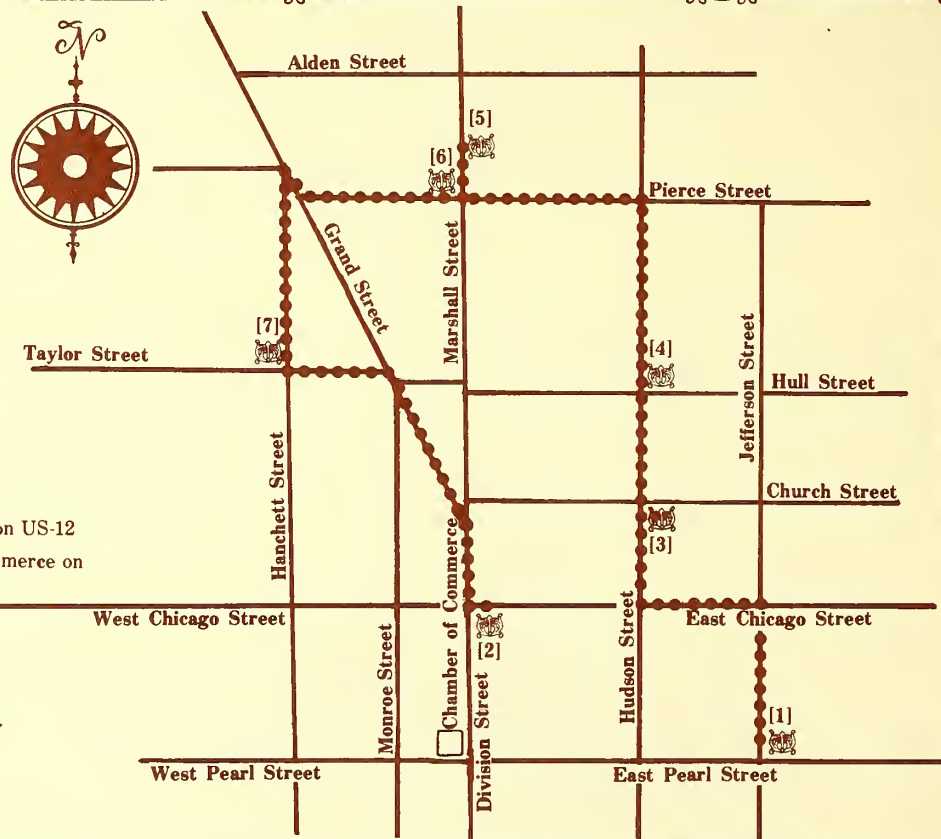
[8]  US-12

Sponsored By:

*Branch County  
 Historical Society*

Note: Shuttle Service starts at  
 Chamber of Commerce

●●● Indicates Walking Tour



Lucius Wing, Civil War captain, purchased this home in 1882 from Jay Chandler who had built it in 1875. The Branch County Historical Society purchased the home in 1974 from Mrs. Adaline Wing Kershaw of the third generation to occupy the house. This historical house museum is furnished with many fine Wing family pieces.

The Wing men were prominent in the business, political, and social life of the community. Lucius Wing served as sheriff, mayor, president of the Coldwater Gas Company, Wolverine Portland Cement Company, and the Coldwater National Bank. The women were active in many social, cultural, and volunteer activities.

An outstanding example of the Second Empire style, also called Parisian Mansard, the building is extensively and artistically ornamented. The most characteristic feature of this structure is its convex mansard roof which is sheathed with tin.

This building is listed in both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and is being restored with the help of several grants and many donations.

Wing House Museum  
27 South Jefferson Street  
Date: 1875  
Style: Second Empire





Coldwater Public Library  
Edwin R. Clarke Building  
12 East Chicago Street  
Date: 1886  
Style: Modified Queen Anne



Edwin R. Clarke, a local merchant, donated this modified Queen Anne style building to the City in 1886. He had watched the Ladies Library Association, started in 1870, merge in 1881 with the newly established Free Public Library. When he saw the need for a new building, he consulted with William F. Poole, Librarian at the Chicago Public Library, whose design for an ideal library he had admired in the **Library Journal**. Marcellus Parker was named local architect with E.B. Saxton as builder of the red brick structure with its high, cut-stone foundation.

Mary Eddy, first librarian in the new building, was instrumental in founding the Michigan Library Association in 1890.

The library was the recipient of a State Historic Preservation Grant and restoration of the exterior has recently been completed.

The Coldwater Public Library is listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places as a part of the East Chicago Street Historic District.

Constructed for use as a home by Ira Lee around 1852, this dignified one-story Greek Revival building illustrates the adaptability of old houses.

Although there were several owners during its early years, members of the Bradford Corless family owned and occupied it from 1890 until 1948 when it was sold to the Christian Science Society which made a few interior and exterior changes. Shown on last year's tour as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, it has since been converted back to its original use as the charming and cozy home of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Cozzens.

The hanging drying herbs, spinning wheel, looms, dried weed bouquets, homemade candles, and special blends of teas seen in this house reflect not only Mrs. Cozzen's heritage from her Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors, but also her devotion to these pioneer-like hobbies which have become her interesting way of life.

The blending of her hobbies with the primitive antique furnishings and accessories, many of which have been refinished by Mr. and Mrs. Cozzens, creates a delightful early American atmosphere.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Cozzens

34 North Hudson Street

Date: c. 1852

Style: Greek Revival



Mrs. Ralph McGowen  
57 Hull Street  
Date: 1881-1882  
Style: Italianate



In 1881-1882 J.H. McLane had two nearly identical Italianate style houses, designed by architect Asbury W. Buckley, built side by side for his two sons, Scott and Winfield, at a cost of \$3,200 each. Behind the houses were a race track and Italianate style stables for their racing horses.

Winfield McLane's residence at 57 Hull was sold in 1910 to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reed who replaced the onyx fireplace facing with tile, added a bay window on the east and made some other interior changes.

Samuel D. Strong, president of the Homer Furnace Company, purchased the property in 1920 and it remained in his family for 42 years. The front porch replaced an Italianate veranda during this family's residency.

Mrs. McGowen, who purchased the home from Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bristol in 1970, has furnished it with many appropriate antiques. She is also the proud owner of a 300-piece set of English Ironstone copper tea-leaf dinner-ware, as well as other treasures.



Thomas W. Dickinson, partner in Dickinson and Whitley real estate, abstract, and loan offices, started building this house in 1876 for his son, Charles, and family just north of his own grand residence. The two neighboring structures were known for years as "the Dickinson houses."

The house, itself, is an extensively embellished Italianate style structure. The late phase Queen Anne style porch was added in 1898 by the Dickinsons. The unique porch foundation employs a reddish conglomerate glacial drift stone which came from the Thomas Cain farm in the Barnhart community of Union township, and it was the topic of conversation in 1898.

George M. Branch, member of the J. B. Branch family which already was occupying several houses in this Marshall Street block, purchased the home from the Dickinson family in 1939. This area of the street has long been known as "Branch family territory."

J. B. Branch, founder of the century-old J. B. Branch and Company department store, owned lovely Victorian furniture now standing in the north drawing-room of this residence.

Mrs. George M. Branch and Miss Nancy Branch  
176 Marshall Street  
House Style: Italianate Date: 1876  
Porch Style: Late Queen Anne Date: 1898



Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Woodward  
Mayor Charles Woodward  
Original Date: 1846 Style: Greek Revival  
Renovation Date: 1906 Style: Modified Greek Revival



Philo H. Crippen erected the house in 1846. Henry C. Gilbert, lawyer, purchased it in 1857. Gilbert was appointed Indian Agent for the State of Michigan (1853-55) by President Pierce. Although Colonel Gilbert died from wounds received in battle against the Confederates in 1864, the house has remained in the family for five generations (199 years), passing mainly through a succession of daughters.

Originally, the main block of the house was a moderately interpreted Greek Revival structure. The frame of this part is of 9" x 9" pegged hand-hewn beams and the roof rafters are bark-covered tamarack posts. Italianate verandas and a long rear extension were added in the 1850's.

The present state of grandeur was achieved through the 1906 renovation by Mr. Charles A. Pollock, father of Mrs. Leslie Woodward. He removed the Italianate porches and added the pedimented, pillared portico which was appropriate for the Greek Revival style. The long rear extension was shortened, also.

The Woodwards have pieces of the original Gilbert parlor furniture, the Spaulding silver (second generation), six generations of family photos, and paintings by family artists.



This classic Greek Revival home was built in 1852 for Storrs and Julianna Moulton. Mr. Moulton, a cabinet maker by trade, operated a furniture business at 43 West Chicago Street from 1842 until 1881. The house was owned by the Moulton family for over a half-century. The Moultons' daughter, Emma, married J. B. Branch, founder of J. B. Branch & Company, in this house in 1876. Their son, Dr. George Moulton, was appointed the United States Consul to Demarara, British Guiana, by President William McKinley.

This house has a well-proportioned rectangular main block, with the widened entablature boards under the eaves forming a broken pediment on the gable end facing the street. The attractive pilastered front entrance has a transom and sidelights representing the lintel and posts of the Greek Parthenon. The present owners built a three-room addition on the north side in 1972 and added shutters to the house in 1975.

Other past owners of the house were Mary and Mida French (Allen) and the Earl Corwins.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rodgers  
85 North Hanchett Street  
Date: 1852  
Style: Greek Revival



Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bristol  
1824 West Chicago Road  
Date: 1872  
House Style: Italianate  
Barn Style: Gothic Revival and Italianate



This 13-room bracketed square Italianate villa and the carriage house were built around 1872 by James Peterson, former hotel and livery stable operator, on his 237-acre farm to accommodate his family of ten children. The Petersons retained ownership of the place until 1904.

The arched, double entrance doors have four beautiful panels of cut and frosted glass. The native lumber used in construction, including the butternut and walnut seen in the interior woodwork, was cut from the farm.

Following the Petersons' ownership, 47 years of occupancy by a variety of owners, tenants and squatters caused the charming country villa to fall into a dilapidated state of repair. Finally, in 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McGowen purchased the home and ten acres of land. Their restoration gave new life to the old house.

The present owners, who purchased the villa in 1970, installed a new enlarged kitchen and redecorated throughout the house. A chopping-block table and a handsome wall clock from the old Arlington Hotel are utilized in the furnishing of the home.

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**Bicentennial Celebration**

Mrs. George Kershaw

**Antique Car Shuttle Service**

Branch County Antique Car Club

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Visit Coldwater's New Public Safety Building



